



105  
AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
CANBERRA

LIBRARY  
13 NOV 1976  
FOR RELEASE : NOON 17 NOVEMBER 1976

Reference No. 6.12

EMPLOYED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS : AUSTRALIA  
AUGUST 1976

PRELIMINARY

MAIN FEATURES

The figures below refer only to civilian wage and salary earners excluding those in agriculture and private domestic service.

Following a recent investigation of the series the estimates in this statement for each month from July 1975 have been revised. See paragraphs 2 to 6. As compilation of revised industry estimates has not yet been completed these details are not available. Revised figures will be published in the August 1976 issue of *Employment and Unemployment* (Reference No. 6.4).

- . During August 1976 employment decreased by 9,100 (males by 8,100 and females by 1,000). In seasonally adjusted terms the decrease was 7,600.
- . Private employment fell by 7,000 persons and government employment by 2,200 persons.
- . Employment in manufacturing declined by a further 5,600 persons.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This preliminary statement will be followed in due course by the monthly bulletin *Employment and Unemployment* (Reference No. 6.4) which gives information in greater detail.

2. Recent issues of this statement have referred to an investigation of a probable underestimation in the series. The investigation has shown that the number of male wage and salary earners has been understated for the last year. The underestimation appears to have increased progressively and although there are problems in quantifying its extent it is considered to have reached 20,000 by August 1976. No significant underestimation of the number of female wage and salary earners is evident.

3. The main causes of this understatement are a decline in the levels of multiple jobholding and labour turnover and problems in estimating employment in small businesses not subject to payroll tax.

4. At the benchmark date (June 1971 for the current series) a correction is made to allow for the double counting of multiple jobholders who appear on two or more payrolls. If, subsequent to the benchmark date, multiple jobholding becomes less significant over a period the employment series will be over-corrected. Results of surveys indicate that since mid-1975 the number of persons holding more than one job has decreased. Similarly, labour turnover may cause persons to be counted on more than one employment return, and the figures at the benchmark date are corrected for this. As there has been a reduction in labour turnover in recent periods, and more of the persons leaving jobs have been moving into the unemployed category, double counting has been reduced. The estimation system has thus over-corrected for both of these effects, causing some understatement.

5. Problems in estimating employment in the unrecorded sector have arisen because of changes in payroll tax exemption levels and the fact that employment movements of small firms (not paying payroll tax) are not always similar to those of firms paying payroll tax, especially in the current employment environment. Investigation has shown that the fall in employment has been proportionally less in the small firms than the larger ones, causing understatement in the employment series.

6. Although there will have been some effects on estimates for periods before mid-1975, they are judged to be too small to require the figures to be revised. The amendments to figures since July 1975 are mainly confined to males in New South Wales and Victoria, but a number of small adjustments affecting other figures have also been made.

Reference period

7. Current data supplied by reporting enterprises or establishments generally refer to persons on the payroll for the last pay-period in each month.

Scope of estimates

8. The series in this statement relate only to *wage and salary earners*, not the total labour force. The statistics therefore exclude employers, self-employed persons, unpaid helpers and the unemployed. Employees in agriculture and private households are also excluded

because of the inadequacy of current data. For the sake of brevity, wage and salary earners are referred to in the tables as 'employees'.

9. Persons who are on paid leave or who work during part of the pay-period and are unemployed or on strike during the rest of the period are generally counted as employed. Those not shown on employers' payrolls because they are on leave without pay, on strike or stood down for the entire period are excluded.

#### Method of estimation

10. The estimates are based on benchmarks derived from the results of the 1971 population census and other relevant sources, such as special returns from government bodies and the Bureau's economic censuses and surveys. Month-to-month changes shown by current returns are linked to the benchmark data to derive the monthly estimates. Current returns are of three main types :

- . payroll tax returns
- . returns from government bodies
- . other current employment returns (e.g. for hospitals).

11. Recorded employment obtained from these sources is estimated to account for nearly 90 per cent of the total number of employees in the industries covered. The balance (that is, unrecorded private employment) is estimated.

#### Government employment

12. Government employees comprise not only administrative employees but also all other employees of government bodies (Australian, State, local and semi-government) on services such as railways, road transport, banks, postal and telecommunications, air transport, education (including universities), radio, television, police, public works, factories and departmental hospitals and institutions.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding. The figures shown are subject to revision.

*NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning Mr Joe Christensen on 52 6655 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.*

TABLE 1. — CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES  
(Excluding agriculture and private domestic service)  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

									Australia	
Month	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T. (a)	Original	Seasonally adjusted (b)
MALES										
1975 — July	1,098.4	†825.6	412.9	277.7	248.0	90.4	24.8	51.9	†3,029.8	†3,034.7
August	1,090.9	824.2	411.7	276.2	247.1	90.0	25.3	51.5	3,016.9	3,025.6
September	1,087.5	825.6	410.0	274.4	246.8	89.8	25.0	51.7	3,010.7	3,020.8
October	1,084.8	825.2	410.2	274.5	246.9	89.6	25.0	52.0	3,008.1	3,019.2
November	1,083.3	825.6	407.9	274.2	247.8	89.2	25.1	52.1	3,005.2	3,002.9
December	1,081.7	828.5	403.4	274.2	247.9	89.4	24.8	52.5	3,002.3	2,997.3
1976 — January	1,079.1	826.9	400.6	274.5	247.8	88.9	24.9	52.4	2,995.1	3,002.8
February	1,081.1	828.6	404.5	276.3	248.0	88.9	24.7	52.1	3,004.2	3,001.7
March	1,081.7	830.6	407.3	277.0	248.5	89.1	24.6	52.3	3,011.1	3,002.2
April	1,079.6	830.2	409.3	277.5	248.8	89.0	24.4	51.8	3,010.7	3,007.6
May	1,079.1	829.4	409.7	278.4	249.0	88.5	24.7	51.7	3,010.4	2,998.4
June	1,076.5	827.7	409.7	278.5	248.4	88.2	24.9	51.4	3,005.3	2,995.5
July	1,073.1	826.2	410.9	277.7	248.4	88.5	24.8	50.8	3,000.4	3,005.0
August	1,070.4	823.9	409.3	277.4	247.6	88.3	24.8	50.6	2,992.3	3,000.9
FEMALES										
1975 — July	624.7	488.8	210.7	160.3	133.7	46.8	11.9	35.7	1,712.6	1,714.1
August	623.1	491.0	210.0	160.2	133.6	46.6	12.4	35.9	1,712.7	1,715.2
September	624.9	493.0	211.7	160.1	133.8	46.5	12.2	35.6	1,717.9	1,718.6
October	627.2	494.1	213.1	161.7	134.6	46.3	12.5	35.8	1,725.2	1,722.2
November	630.7	496.0	213.8	163.2	134.7	46.1	12.5	35.9	1,732.9	1,724.2
December	624.4	496.3	212.6	159.7	132.7	46.4	12.6	35.4	1,720.1	1,720.2
1976 — January	615.8	492.4	211.8	159.5	131.7	45.2	12.2	35.1	1,703.7	1,728.9
February	623.1	496.4	213.6	163.4	135.0	46.2	12.3	35.4	1,725.3	1,730.4
March	625.6	500.4	214.8	165.1	136.4	47.1	12.2	35.4	1,736.9	1,730.4
April	624.7	498.7	216.0	165.3	136.3	46.9	12.3	35.3	1,735.7	1,729.6
May	623.9	497.0	216.3	166.1	137.1	47.0	12.4	35.4	1,735.2	1,728.2
June	623.3	495.1	216.1	166.6	136.7	46.8	12.6	35.8	1,733.0	1,726.7
July	623.0	495.9	216.9	166.1	137.1	47.1	12.6	35.4	1,734.2	1,735.4
August	622.8	494.1	217.1	166.3	137.6	47.2	12.8	35.4	1,733.2	1,735.5
PERSONS										
1975 — July	1,723.1	†1,314.4	623.7	438.0	381.7	137.3	36.8	87.6	†4,742.4	†4,750.4
August	1,713.9	1,315.2	621.7	436.4	380.6	136.6	37.7	87.4	4,729.5	4,739.0
September	1,712.3	1,318.6	621.6	434.5	380.7	136.3	37.2	87.3	4,728.6	4,739.3
October	1,712.0	1,319.3	623.2	436.2	381.5	135.9	37.5	87.7	4,733.4	4,742.6
November	1,713.9	1,321.6	621.7	437.4	382.6	135.3	37.6	88.0	4,738.0	4,724.0
December	1,706.1	1,324.9	616.0	433.9	380.5	135.8	37.4	88.0	4,722.5	4,715.9
1976 — January	1,694.8	1,319.4	612.4	434.0	379.4	134.1	37.2	87.5	4,698.9	4,733.7
February	1,704.2	1,325.0	618.0	439.7	383.1	135.1	37.0	87.5	4,729.5	4,732.0
March	1,707.3	1,331.0	622.1	442.1	384.9	136.2	36.8	87.6	4,748.0	4,733.9
April	1,704.4	1,328.9	625.4	442.8	385.1	135.9	36.7	87.1	4,746.4	4,737.1
May	1,703.0	1,326.4	626.0	444.6	386.1	135.5	37.1	87.1	4,745.6	4,726.7
June	1,699.8	1,322.8	625.8	445.1	385.2	135.0	37.5	87.1	4,738.3	4,722.5
July	1,696.1	1,322.1	627.8	443.9	385.6	135.6	37.4	86.3	4,734.6	4,742.0
August	1,693.2	1,318.0	626.3	443.7	385.2	135.5	37.6	86.0	4,725.5	4,734.4

(a) Includes persons employed in the Australian Capital Territory who reside in adjoining areas. (b) For details of the methods used see *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, 1976* (Reference No. 1.10). † Affected by industrial dispute.

TABLE 2. - TOTAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES (PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT) AND DEFENCE FORCES : AUSTRALIA  
(Excluding agriculture and private domestic service)  
(000)

Month	Government (a)					Civilian employees	Defence forces (c)	Total civilian employees and defence forces
	Private	Australian	State (b)	Local (b)	Total (b)			
MALES								
1975 - July	†2,107.1	280.0	522.6	120.2	922.7	†3,029.8	65.9	†3,095.7
August	2,099.2	280.3	521.1	116.3	917.7	3,016.9	65.9	3,082.8
September	2,098.2	279.8	520.1	112.6	912.5	3,010.7	65.6	3,076.3
October	2,100.8	279.8	518.8	108.7	907.3	3,008.1	65.5	3,073.6
November	2,102.3	279.4	517.8	105.7	902.9	3,005.2	65.1	3,070.3
December	2,099.6	280.3	518.1	104.2	902.7	3,002.3	64.8	3,067.1
1976 - January	2,092.7	279.7	520.1	102.6	902.4	2,995.1	65.7	3,060.8
February	2,101.8	277.1	523.0	102.3	902.4	3,004.2	65.7	3,069.9
March	2,109.4	276.0	523.9	101.9	901.7	3,011.1	65.4	3,076.5
April	2,109.0	275.0	525.2	101.4	901.6	3,010.7	65.5	3,076.2
May	2,108.7	274.7	525.7	101.2	901.6	3,010.4	65.2	3,075.6
June	2,103.0	274.6	526.2	101.5	902.3	3,005.3	65.3	3,070.6
July	2,099.4	273.8	526.2	101.1	901.1	3,000.4	65.3	3,065.7
August	2,093.6	273.4	524.4	100.9	898.7	2,992.3	65.2	3,057.5
FEMALES								
1975 - July	1,339.5	119.3	233.8	20.0	373.1	1,712.6	3.4	1,716.0
August	1,338.9	120.0	233.9	19.8	373.7	1,712.7	3.5	1,716.2
September	1,344.9	119.0	234.5	19.6	373.0	1,717.9	3.5	1,721.4
October	1,351.2	118.9	235.5	19.7	374.0	1,725.2	3.5	1,728.7
November	1,357.9	118.9	236.4	19.8	375.0	1,732.9	3.5	1,736.4
December	1,354.5	118.6	227.6	19.5	365.7	1,720.1	3.5	1,723.6
1976 - January	1,338.5	117.7	228.3	19.2	365.2	1,703.7	3.5	1,707.2
February	1,348.9	116.9	239.6	19.8	376.3	1,725.3	3.5	1,728.8
March	1,357.7	115.4	244.0	19.8	379.2	1,736.9	3.5	1,740.4
April	1,355.9	114.8	245.3	19.7	379.8	1,735.7	3.5	1,739.3
May	1,354.9	114.9	245.6	19.7	380.2	1,735.2	3.6	1,738.8
June	1,350.9	115.0	247.3	19.8	382.1	1,733.0	3.6	1,736.6
July	1,350.4	115.8	248.0	20.0	383.8	1,734.2	3.5	1,737.7
August	1,349.2	116.0	247.9	20.1	384.0	1,733.2	3.6	1,736.8
PERSONS								
1975 - July	†3,446.6	399.3	756.4	140.2	1,295.8	†4,742.4	69.3	†4,811.7
August	3,438.1	400.3	755.0	136.1	1,291.4	4,729.5	69.3	4,798.8
September	3,443.0	398.8	754.6	132.2	1,285.5	4,728.6	69.1	4,797.7
October	3,452.0	398.7	754.3	128.4	1,281.3	4,733.4	69.0	4,802.4
November	3,460.2	398.3	754.2	125.5	1,277.9	4,738.0	68.6	4,806.6
December	3,454.1	398.9	745.7	123.7	1,268.4	4,722.5	68.3	4,790.8
1976 - January	3,431.2	397.4	748.4	121.8	1,267.7	4,698.9	69.2	4,768.1
February	3,450.8	394.0	762.6	122.1	1,278.7	4,729.5	69.2	4,798.7
March	3,467.1	391.4	767.9	121.7	1,280.9	4,748.0	68.9	4,816.9
April	3,464.9	389.8	770.5	121.1	1,281.5	4,746.4	69.1	4,815.5
May	3,463.7	389.6	771.3	120.9	1,281.9	4,745.6	68.8	4,814.4
June	3,453.9	389.6	773.5	121.3	1,284.4	4,738.3	68.9	4,807.2
July	3,449.8	389.6	774.2	121.1	1,284.9	4,734.6	68.8	4,803.4
August	3,442.8	389.4	772.3	121.0	1,282.7	4,725.5	68.8	4,794.3

(a) Includes semi-government bodies. (b) Excludes State and local government employees (5.3 thousand persons in June 1976) engaged in agriculture or in private homes as employees of government emergency housekeeper services. (c) Permanent defence forces in Australia and overseas. † Affected by industrial dispute.

TABLE 3. — CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES : AUSTRALIA  
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES  
(Excluding agriculture and private domestic service)  
(’000)

Month	Total civilian employees			Private/Government (persons)		Principal industries (persons)	
	Males	Females	Persons	Private	Government (a)	Manufacturing	Wholesale and retail trade
ORIGINAL							
1975 — July	† 3,029.8	1,712.6	† 4,742.4	† 3,446.6	1,295.8	1,202.9	955.4
August	3,016.9	1,712.7	4,729.5	3,438.1	1,291.4	1,200.1	951.9
September	3,010.7	1,717.9	4,728.6	3,443.0	1,285.5	1,200.8	955.3
October	3,008.1	1,725.2	4,733.4	3,452.0	1,281.3	1,205.4	960.5
November	3,005.2	1,732.9	4,738.0	3,460.2	1,277.9	1,208.2	966.1
December	3,002.3	1,720.1	4,722.5	3,454.1	1,268.4	1,201.8	969.1
1976 — January	2,995.1	1,703.7	4,698.9	3,431.2	1,267.7	1,198.4	955.7
February	3,004.2	1,725.3	4,729.5	3,450.8	1,278.7	1,209.2	958.6
March	3,011.1	1,736.9	4,748.0	3,467.1	1,280.9	1,213.2	964.5
April	3,010.7	1,735.7	4,746.4	3,464.9	1,281.5	1,206.6	966.6
May	3,010.4	1,735.2	4,745.6	3,463.7	1,281.9	1,203.3	969.4
June	3,005.3	1,733.0	4,738.3	3,453.9	1,284.4	1,196.9	968.4
July	3,000.4	1,734.2	4,734.6	3,449.8	1,284.9	1,192.9	968.5
August	2,992.3	1,733.2	4,725.5	3,442.8	1,282.7	1,187.3	969.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (b)							
1975 — July	† 3,034.7	1,714.1	† 4,750.4	† 3,455.4	1,291.5	1,204.5	962.1
August	3,025.6	1,715.2	4,739.0	3,449.2	1,289.7	1,201.5	959.2
September	3,020.8	1,718.6	4,739.3	3,451.1	1,288.2	1,201.8	961.0
October	3,019.2	1,722.2	4,742.6	3,456.0	1,287.5	1,203.5	961.2
November	3,002.9	1,724.2	4,724.0	3,440.5	1,284.8	1,203.1	953.8
December	2,997.3	1,720.2	4,715.9	3,447.3	1,275.3	1,206.2	951.2
1976 — January	3,002.8	1,728.9	4,733.7	3,453.2	1,279.7	1,206.9	962.0
February	3,001.7	1,730.4	4,732.0	3,454.9	1,276.8	1,209.0	964.0
March	3,002.2	1,730.4	4,733.9	3,456.1	1,274.8	1,208.7	965.7
April	3,007.6	1,729.6	4,737.1	3,458.9	1,274.3	1,205.9	966.6
May	2,998.4	1,728.2	4,726.7	3,453.6	1,274.3	1,201.5	966.9
June	2,995.5	1,726.7	4,722.5	3,448.8	1,275.5	1,194.1	967.9
July	3,005.0	1,735.4	4,742.0	3,458.2	1,280.4	1,194.3	975.2
August	3,000.9	1,735.5	4,734.4	3,453.6	1,280.8	1,188.5	976.4

(a) Includes semi-government bodies. (b) For details of the methods used see *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators*, 1976 (Reference No. 1.10).

† Affected by industrial disputes.

R. W. COLE  
Australian Statistician

